

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 06809 171404Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
IO-13 /125 W

-----180024Z 039741 /73

R 171334Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7480
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6809

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EALR, ETRD, ENRG, UR, IN, IZ
SUBJ: IRAQI TRADE WITH USSR

REF: NEW DELHI 6895

1. IN THREE-CORNERED CONVERSATION MAY 13 WITH E/C COUNSELOR AND TURKISH COUNSELOR, IRAQI EMBASSY MINISTER STATED THAT IRAQ PREFERS TO TRADE WITH USSR ON STRICTLY HARD CURRENCY BASIS. IN THIS WAY IT IS ABLE TO OBTAIN SOVIET INDUSTRIAL GOODS AT BARGAIN PRICES, FOR SOVIETS TRY TO UNDERBID WEST EUROPEAN COMPETITORS AND OFFER GOODS AT LOWER PRICE THAN THEY WOULD ASK IN RUBLES. HE STATED THAT HIS APPLIES ALSO TO IRAQI CRUDE OIL SALES, BUT DID NOT MAKE CLEAR WHETHER ALL OF CURRENT FIVE MILLION TONS PER YEAR SOLD TO USSR ARE PAID FOR IN HARD CURRENCY. (WE RECALL THAT SOVIET ECONOMIC AID TO IRAQ IN THE PAST WAS TO BE PARTIALLY REPAID IN CRUDE OIL.)

2. CONCERNING CRUDE OIL SALES TO USSR, MINISTER WAS
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SOMEWHAT VAGUE ON MEASNS OF DELIVERY. HE IMPLIED BUT NEVER QUITE SAID THAT OIL GOES TO BLACK SEA PORTS. HE DID STATE, HOWEVER, THAT NO IRAQI OIL IS MOVING TO USSR VIA PIPELINE TO ISKENDERUN WHICH WAS RECENTLY OPENED.

3. MINISTER MADE NO MENTION OF SALES OF CRUDE OIL TO INDIA ON SOVIET ACCOUNT (WE DID NOT HAVE REFTTEL UNTIL

FOLLOWING MORNING), PERHAPS BECAUSE CONVERSATION TOOK
PLACE IN SMALL AND CROWDED APARTMENT OF INDIAN EMBASSY
ECONOMICS MINISTER. FROM TRANSPORT POINT OF VIEW, IRAQI
OIL SHIPMENTS TO INDIA (AND TO THIRD COUNTRIES) ON SOVIET
ACCOUNT SEEMS TO MAKE MORE SENSE THAN DELIVERING IT TO USSR
TO OFFSET SOVIET EXPORTS.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, FOREIGN TRADE, SALES DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Subject: IRAQI TRADE WITH USSR
TAGS: EALR, ETRD, ENRG, UR, IN, IZ
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